

BULLETIN OF  
THE NEW YORK ACADEMY  
OF MEDICINE



VOL. 62, No. 8

OCTOBER 1986

---

INTRODUCTION

ANDREW BLITZER, D.D.S., M.D.

Director, Division of Head and Neck Surgery  
College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University  
New York, New York

**M**AX L. Som, M.D., was born December 25, 1904 in Vilna, Russia and came to the United States at the age of 2. He grew up in Borough Park, Brooklyn and then in Jersey City. In 1926 he was graduated from the Washington Square College of New York University and in 1930 from the New York University School of Medicine. Dr. Som was an intern at the Mount Sinai Hospital in New York City. During his internship he was influenced by Dr. Isadore Friesner, the Head of the Otology Service, and Dr. Som planned a career in otolaryngology at the Mount Sinai Hospital under the careful eyes of Drs. Isadore Friesner, Sidney Yankower, and Rudolf Kramer (who directed the Nose and Throat Service). After completing training in 1933, he went into practice with Dr. Rudolf Kramer until 1940, and then practiced alone until 1955, when he became associated with Dr. Leon Arnold. Dr. Som was affiliated with the Department of Pathology at the

---

\*Presented as part of a *Symposium on Conservation Surgery of the Head and Neck*, held in honor of Dr. Max L. Som by the Section on Otolaryngology of the New York Academy of Medicine December 14, 1984.

Mount Sinai Hospital as a volunteer from 1933 to 1940. Dr. Som has remained affiliated with the Mount Sinai Hospital and is today Emeritus Professor of Otolaryngology.

This issue of the *Bulletin* is dedicated to Dr. Som for his many contributions, and for his teaching and enthusiasm which led many of us into the world of head and neck surgery. He not only taught us established techniques, but taught us how to think, and how to approach problems creatively.